

TROUBLES ON THE STAGE.

THE SCENE AT THE DRAWING-ROOM
THEATER YESTERDAY AFTERNOON.

Mr. Mollenhauer and his Operetta—He Makes a Speech and is Condemned by Miss Cummings—The Efforts of a Struggling Actor—Two Sets of a Curiously Interested Story.

The matinée at the Drawing-Room Theater, Twenty-fourth street, yesterday afternoon, was productive of a scene not laid down in the bills. The performance was to begin at half past one. The audience sat until 2:45 when Mr. Edward Mollenhauer, the leader of the orchestra, arose, with folded arms, and began to denounce the management of the theater. He said it was understood that the farce of "In and Out of Place" was to precede the presentation of his operetta of "Manhattan Bound; or Love Among the Brookers." The latter could not be presented immediately, because the singers understood that they were not wanted until 3 o'clock. The delay was caused because the management had not told the singers that the opera was to be played first.

Here Miss Cummings came to the footlights. Her black eyes snapped fire. She contradicted Mr. Mollenhauer's statement, and accused him of a violation of contract. All the trouble arose from his failure to keep his contract. She said that her theatrical properties had been seized, and she was too ill to appear on the stage. She accused Mr. Mollenhauer of inducing her to produce his operetta by misrepresentations.

As she went behind the curtain she was loudly applauded. Mr. Mollenhauer then gave a history of his troubles with the operetta. He said that a Mr. Walter Hill, who claimed to be a capitalist, contracted to bring it out in good style six times in the first three months. He claimed to be worth from \$3,000 to \$5,000. Mr. Mollenhauer engaged the company. Mr. Hill did not fulfil his contract, and he made a contract with Miss Cummings. She failed to pay him enough money to keep him, so he left. He asked for the salary of his singers yesterday, and she said she would pay them on Tuesday. He asked for some time to pay him, and could not get it. He considered his contract closed with the performance at night.

Soon afterward the orchestra piped up, and the manager of the theater, Mr. Mollenhauer, took his station behind the music rack and told his story. He said that the report of Miss Cummings was true, and that he had given her \$100. After making a contract with Hill, he learned that Hill had been turned out of 25 Union squares, and that was eight dollars out of pocket for carriages. He asked for some time to pay him, and could not get it.

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They travelled all night, and Elizabeth, a young performer at the theater, arrived in time for the matinée. After the performance, Mr. Mollenhauer took his station behind the music rack and told his story. He said that the report of Miss Cummings was true, and that he had given her \$100. After making a contract with Hill, he learned that Hill had been turned out of 25 Union squares, and that was eight dollars out of pocket for carriages. He asked for some time to pay him, and could not get it.

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At dusk, Hill failed to pay any bills. Barnard, Mr. Mollenhauer's agent, and his traveling expenses of the company, and Barnard was eight dollars out of pocket for carriages.

At Elizabeth two of the company declined to sing, and all promises of payment were of no avail.

"I considered my contract cancelled," said Mr. Mollenhauer.

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